

TAPE SQUEAL



INDIANA RECORDING CLUB,
Volume XXII — Number 2 ; February, 1981

How to use a Recorder Creatively

Gene Eaton, "Tech Notes"

A basic resource is being wasted -- the ability to create original audio material. It exists, to a degree, with cassette units, but really comes into its own with open-reel machines. Team an open-reel deck with a portable cassette recorder and you have a winning combination. So let's explore some of these creative possibilities.

You can perk up a party with the judicious use of your tape machine. However, electronic eavesdropping has to be approached with caution, as it may offend some guests, so it is best to approach the party scene with your tape machine in more visible use.

One party pleaser is the switch-hit interview. You might say to your subject: "We are taking a survey of the garbage disposal habits in our community. Could you give me a rundown on the contents of your garbage in the last week?" Record a liberal reply with all of the items listed, then, after leaving your subject, re-record your question so that it comes out "Everyone raves about your stew. Would you please give us the recipe for this delicacy?"

Another mirth-maker is the tongue-tying trick. It calls for a recorder with separate record and playback heads and facilities for reverberation/echo effects. Have your subject listen to the recorder with earphones, set the machine for reverb-mode and tape-monitor, then ask your "victim" to recite "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain" or some such. If your subject is like most people there's almost no way he or she can do it. With a group in the right mood, the resulting breakups and sputtering are a howl.

Guessing games are made easy with a recorder. Simply prepare a tape in advance with the material to be devined, like musical

passages, well known historical records, or just everyday sounds around the house. Out of context, they're not at all easy to identify.

Want to try a little exercise in parlor psychology? Take a string of such off-beat sounds and play them in sequence. Then divide your guests into two teams, ask them to write down their impressions of what they heard, then try to figure out who wrote which one and so on, with any number of variations.

You can record a string of excerpted musical passages from discs, asking guests to identify the composition and composer. Or more creatively, prepare an audio "historical" quiz by devising oral clues, and then the fun is on.

Sounds, whether literal pickups or created effects, are the foundation not only of party games, but of any audio production from a show like the "CBS Radio Mystery Theatre" to your own taped shows. These are the stage props and scenery of the imagination. Taping such effects is also a handy way to add them to a stage production. There exist three sources for effects: commercial records, the real thing, or your own fabrications.

There are sound-effects records available for almost everything, or the actual article is an ideal source and easy to obtain with a good portable recorder. For example, it's no great trick to tape your own door slamming shut, or door bell ringing, or the ringing or dialing of the telephone. You can record the sound of water boiling, bacon frying, or teakettle whistling. But it isn't always easy to grab just the sound you need when you need it. So you may still want to fall back on studio effects that you can duplicate yourself.

(con't on track 3)

Tape Squeal is the monthly newsletter of the INDIANA RECORDING CLUB. Send all news information, photographs, etc. to: Sharon Moore, editor, 4215 North Oxford Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205.

For information about membership in the INDIANA RECORDING CLUB contact: Eleanor Davies, secretary, 1729 East 77th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. Telephone (317)2517048.

Please send all changes of address and directory data to: Eleanor Davies, directory manager, 1729 East 77th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.

Your INDIANA RECORDING CLUB Board of Directors consists of Dennis Burcher, Pres.; Bill Tillett, Vice-Pres.; Eleanor Davies, Secretary; John Oliver, Treasurer; and Bill Endicott and Gene Scott, Members.

TO ALL NEW MEMBERS (In the United States)

When you receive your welcoming tape please return the accompanying postcard to the committee chairman: William Kearney, 2625 West Jefferson Road, Kokomo, Indiana 46901.

TRADING POST

Free notices for IRC members, concerning tape and related items to sell, buy, trade, etc.

INGO HEINS, S-3 — is looking for Germans who have immigrated to the USA to exchange cassettes with them. He has got a lot of German-spoken comedy material that he would like to exchange against some American Rock and Jazz music which is not available in Germany. Conversation may take place both in German and English.

TED HERING, S-17 — is trying to locate a copy of Harpo Marx's Mercury album "Harpo at Work."

BOB YEAGER, S-12 — is looking for cassettes of Irish music and marches of all kinds, esp. Military and Operatic.

W. C. ROUSSEAU, S - 19 — has an extensive tape library of over 2500 open reels and 350 cassettes for which he will be publishing a catalog in the near future. In the meantime, anyone desiring information may write to him direct (do not send a tape). He also has the capability of duplicating on cassette, 8-track, open reel, open quad reel, and 8-track quad.

TOM MEIER, D-80 — would like to know if anyone has a soundtrack recording of the 1958 movie "Marjorie Morningstar" (if one exists) or at least the main song "A Very Precious Love." He will provide a tape and trade any music he has.

CLETUS SCHNEIDER, D-26 — would like to contact anyone interested in taping nature, especially the discussion of wild life and the recording of same. He can tape reel-to-reel or cassette. Please send letter or tape.

JANET PERRY, S-31 — is looking for comedy recordings on cassettes and/or comedy recorded from talk shows, except Steve Martin and George Carlin. She is also looking for recorded recipes from radio and T.V.

LEE BOOK, S-11 — is trying to find "A Kiss to Build a Dream On." Recorded in the early 1950s by an unknown (to Lee) female artist, it may be on a 45, L.P., or cassette.

JERRY JOHNSON, D-36 — wants a 3 3/4 and 7 1/2 IPS 110V recorder in good, dependable condition at a reasonable price. It should be 1/4 track. This recorder is wanted for a relative of Irvin Claghorn, IRC member who died recently.

PAUL WATSON, D-12 — has taped President Reagan's inaugural address but did not get the prayer. If anyone has the needed info, Paul will provide a blank tape for recording.

RECORDING CREATIVELY (Con't)

For example, a wind effect: A pretty creditible one results by releasing air slowly out of a balloon over the mike. Played back one speed faster, such a "take" converts into a strong gale or a real howler of a storm.

Some Others —

Fire: created with cellophane, crumpled in the hand near a mike and a match stick or two snapped now and then to add the crackling of a wood fire.

Rain: pour some sugar or salt down on cellophane, waxed paper, or aluminum foil, Substitute rice and you have hail.

Distant rumble of thunder: use an inflated balloon with an ounce of BB shot inside. Just swirl around and play back the tape a speed lower than recorded. For a thunderbolt just shake the balloon sharply.

Close-up thunder: use a thunder sheet of tin suspended from a wood frame. Bend the sheet to evoke a heavy rumble and whack it with a cloth-wrapped mallet for a most satisfying thunderclap. Enhance the entire effect by playing back a speed or two lower than the recording speed.

Water: rushing brook -- blow gently through a drinking straw into a glass of water.

River steamer whistle: blow across a partially filled bottle.

Outboard motor: play an electric hand mixer back one speed lower than recorded. One more lower speed will produce a heavy truck or cabin cruiser, or a big powerful car by a little level juggling. For that matter, go to the nearby Interstate Highway and get some "live takes" of those big trucks and a lot of other sounds.

Brakes squealing: scratch a nail or two across a piece of glass or make a wood block with 3 slightly bend nails and push this across the glass away from the direction of the nail bend.

Auto collision: smash a couple of aluminum baking tins together. Experiment with playback speed for the best effect. If the gas tank lets go -- produce this by smashing an air-filled paper bag -- again experiment with playback speed.

Jet aircraft: a home craftsman's propane torch will do the trick nicely, with a bit of nozzle and tape speed adjustment.

Horses' hooves: the classic way is to use a rubber ball cut in half and pound them against your chest in a rhythm appropriate to the horses' gait, be it walking, trotting, cantering, or full gallop.

There are, of course, many more sound effects you can create, and a number of books are available and offer a variety of ideas and suggested methods. Once you get going, you'll invariably come up with ideas of your own.

HELPFUL HINTS

(from Jerry Johnson)

INVENTORY — If you haven't revised your list of equipment and accessories lately, DO IT NOW! Record the brand, model and serial number, and price, just in case of fire or theft. Many insurance companies have a kit for invisible markings which show up under ultra-violet light. Using your Social Security number is usually recommended.

SERVICE — When purchasing new equipment, be certain to check into the service arrangements before the purchase, and to get any commitments in writing. A parts list and shop manual might be of help, too.

STORAGE — a simple yet effective storage arrangement is easy to construct out of 6" wide lumber. In a space at the back of a closet, or in a short hallway, or anywhere you might have two walls with an uninterrupted space between, place 1 x 6 lumber cut to fit the length of the opening. Space the boards using 5½" or 7½" 1 x 6 pieces, and attach a dropcloth to the front of the unit to cover the tapes. No nails or screws needed for the basic unit, as it "builds" itself. For added security, a little glue and a few nails might not be a bad idea, especially in "earthquake country."

SILENT MIKES

Larry Clark of Indianapolis died on January 5, 1981, and Glenn R. Peel of Englewood, Florida, died. The sympathy of the club is extended to the family and friends of both gentlemen.

*Mailed at Indianapolis
on February 10, 1981*

Colitar's Comments

Kelland Clark, D-21, and Brin Dixon, D-104, both write that they are unable to keep up with their taping at the current time due to family illnesses and other unforeseen problems. Both gentlemen write that they regret the circumstances forcing them to curtail their activities, and we hope that they will both be able to resume taping at a time in the near future.

LEWIS CRISPELL, D-20, writes to say that he requested information from the Projector-Recorder Belt Corp. mentioned in last month's T.S. and got a C.O.D. package as an answer! Although they have agreed to accept return of the items, Lew is, understandably, not too thrilled with their business methods. Has anyone else had any experience with this company?

Optimist that I am, I'm going to stick my neck out again and relay information about another outfit recommended by a member. G. E. MARRION, D-89, sent along a copy of Long's Electronics 1981 Catalog, stating that the prices are fairly good and the merchandise useable. The company address is 2808 7th Ave. South, Birmingham, AL, 35233, and the products shown do seem reasonable. If you are searching for audio/visual things, maybe they can help.

"What is a Tape Friend?", on track 4 of the January T.S., was originally sent from England by TREVOR WALDRON to BOB ENNIS, who got it to JOHN OLIVER. Thanks to John for getting it to me. And apologies to all involved for the "typos". But that only proves that it's me at the typewriter instead of anyone else.

Sharon

CREATIVE LIBRARY

The following tapes have been donated to the creative library. Unless indicated otherwise, they are all cassette.

CR 72 — T-Pot XXX -- The Senses

CR 73 — Prize Poetry PPPot #1

These two have been donated by W. I. THROSSELL.

CR 74 — Utah Color Country -- Organ Music recorded by HAROLD BINGHAM

CR 75 — Interview with Rory Calhoun and with Virginia Gray -- from KILR Radio. Donated by G. E. MARRION.

CR 76 — What is the Pinellas Blind Library?

CR 77 — World Wide -- River Danube, Highways of History, Food in General, Birds.

CR 78 — Travel -- South American Coast, Andes.

The last three have been donated by MEG ALEXANDER.

CR 54C — Star Trek Plays, special interview with Gene Rodenberry. Donated by W. DON CURTIS. 7" reel.

CR 79 — "Strange to Your Ears" -- Jim Faussett. Donated by TED HERING. Half-track mono. 5" reel.

Bill Cutshaw
Creative Librarian

Attention: An Open Letter to Mr. Robbie Dehner of California.

Dear "Robbie" where the heck is my copy of the tape you made when we visited Disneyland??? I see you offered it to IRC members but I still sit & wait for my copy. Do I have to sue to get it???

With kindest regards, your taping friend,

Myrna Bernhardt

INDIANA RECORDING CLUB ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
JANUARY 31, 1980 to JANUARY 31, 1981

CHECKING ACCOUNT: BEGINNING OF YEAR.

\$ 184.21

INCOME.

MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$4978.00	
SALE OF LABELS	134.00	
MUSIC LIBRARY	108.50	
O.T. RADIO LIBRARY	204.50	
VOICE OF HISTORY LIBRARY	2.00	
SALE OF BINDERS	10.50	
COFFEE CAN FUND	20.00	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	48.41	\$5505.91

TRANSFERED FROM SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

1757.30

1757.30

TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE

\$7263.21

DISBURSEMENT.

PRINTING OF TAPE SQUEAL	\$1893.74	
POSTAGE FOR TAPE SQUEAL	849.98	
POSTAGE AND SUPPLIES FOR EDITOR	23.57	
PRESIDENT'S POSTAGE	15.00	
SECRETARY'S POSTAGE & SUPPLIES	356.44	
TREASURER'S POSTAGE & SUPPLIES	194.81	
POSTAGE FOR LABEL FUND	20.00	
WELCOME COMMITTEE POSTAGE	150.00	
TREASURER'S BOND FOR 3 YEARS	62.50	
PRINTING NEW DIRECTORY	1421.89	
TYPING & MAILING NEW DIRECTORY	429.46	
PRINTING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS	34.84	
RECONDITIONING CLUB'S TAPE RECORDERS	135.00	
SERVICE POLICY ON EDITOR'S TYPEWRITER	100.00	
EXPENSE FOR ANNIVERSARY PARTY	70.69	
HOBBY SHOW EXPENSE	13.29	
ACCOUNT ANALYSIS & BANK CHARGES	42.50	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	14.00	\$5827.71

TRANSFERED TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT

1260.00

BALANCE ON HAND IN CHECKING ACCT., END OF YEAR

\$7087.71
359.71

SAVINGS ACCOUNT, BAL. BEGINNING OF YEAR.

\$1771.00

DEPOSIT TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT IN 1980

1260.00

INTEREST INCOME

42.80

TRANSFERED TO CHECKING ACCOUNT

\$3073.80

1757.30

\$1316.50

REUBON BORN MEMORIAL FUND.

BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR

\$3284.65

INTEREST INCOME

177.04

\$3461.69

\$3461.69

TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF 1-31-81

\$5137.90

PHYSICAL ASSETS: 6-TAPE RECORDERS, LIBRARY TAPES, SUPPLIES,

MAILING EQUIP., TYPEWRITERS, CASH IN LIBRARYS, MISC. EST...

\$3500.00

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS AS OF 1-31-81.....

\$8637.90

Sue Bereman

TREASURER

SUE BEREMAN

William F. Endicott

AUDITOR

WILLIAM F. ENDICOTT

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Regularly scheduled meetings are held the third Sunday of each month at 2:00pm in the basement meeting room at the Leppert & Cope-land Mortuary (740 E. 86th Street) in Indianapolis.

* * * GUESTS ARE WELCOME * * * * *

FEBRUARY 15TH

DAN COOK, of "Tech Repair", will present a demonstration of the latest electronic developments. This will not only be interesting, it will be very informative. As usual, coffee and conversation will be in profuse supply.

MARCH 15TH

VERN KLINGLER, one of our own members, will present a Tape-Slide Show. Watch next month's T.S. for more information, but be certain to attend the meeting for a truly interesting presentation.

APRIL 19TH

MIKE STELLA, of "Sound Pro", will present another program of interest to all: a demonstration of the latest technical developments in sound. Mike's program last year was extremely interesting, and this year will be no different.



Two 7" reels and one cassette were donated to the Music Library last month. They are:

#447. "The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse" by Duke Ellington, "Sweet Georgia Brown" and other favorites by The Three Suns, and "A Tribute to Charlie Chaplin", selections from some of his moving pictures.

#448. Popular Science Stereo Test Record.
Donated by Ernie Greene, #2073.

C-123. Vienna Boys Choir.
Donated by Meg Alexander, #1236.

---Bill Davies, Music Librarian.



MAILING LABELS

two color with IRC logo

Reel size: 3 1/2 x 4 1/4

Cassette size: 2 1/4 x 4

Price - \$1.75/100 - either size

Order from VERN DAVIS

8805 Madison, #301A

Indianapolis, IN. 46227

When ordering, please specify size.

INDIANA RECORDING CLUB

Sharon Moore, Editor

4215 North Oxford St.

Indianapolis, IN 46205

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage

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TO:

Joseph P. Hehn

422 N. 9th St.

Allentown, Pa., 18102

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